

**PARK & RECREATION MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009**  
**6:15 P.M.**

**Call to Order:** The Parks & Recreation board met on the above date and time in the Council Chambers, 270 W. 15<sup>th</sup> Street. President Denny Corn called the meeting to order. Members present were Anna Karen Pennington, Liz Crain, Tim Shuppert and Tim Yazel. Jan Voiles was absent. Also present was Parks Director Danny Mathews, Secretary Carla Sharpe, City Attorney Ron Wilson, City Councilman Mike Buckley and Darrin McGowan. Rush County Youth Baseball Representative Allen Leising and Youth Baseball President Todd Tressler, Melissa Conrad of the Rushville Republican, Lisa Boaz with the Rush County Players, Molly Moles representing the Moscow Bridge Restoration. Several members from the Amphitheater Committee were: Mike Pavey, Gary Cameron, Sandy Fussner, Kim and Joe Rathz, Buddy Dye, Charlie Stout and Mark Sloan. Also present was Bill Rankin.

**Minutes:** Minutes of July 14, 2009 was presented for approval. Crain moved to approve the July 14<sup>th</sup> minutes. Pennington seconded. Motion carried. Minutes approved.

**Claims:** Reviewed prior to meeting by Shuppert and Pennington. Shuppert moved to approve the claims for the month. Crain seconded. Motion carried. Claims approved for the month.

**Unfinished Business:**

Pool Manager Anita Carfield – Pool Report - In Carfield's absence the following report was submitted:

*The 2009 season has come to a close. Our guards did an exceptional job this year. Overall, the weather did not cooperate this season causing our attendance to be down considerable from previous years. We closed early or did not open 12 days this season due to rain or gloomy weather in which no patrons came to swim. Our largest day for the season was June 19 with a total of 348 that day – down 152 from last season. Our average attendance was approximately 124 patrons per day – down 31 patrons per day from last year. Over the summer we had approximately 7369 patrons visit the pool – down 3342 from last year.*

*We have taken in \$16,416.00 in admissions – down \$5,921.00 from last season and \$9,458.27 in concessions – down \$4,327.27. We sold 5 child passes – down 10, 1 adult pass – up from last year, 57 family passes – down 22, and 1 group pass this season – down 3. Since the season was short this year, we offered the discount prices all season, whether it was due to the weather or the economy, our attendance was down this season. I spoke with some others from area pools, and their seasons were also down.*

*We gave 43 group lessons this season – down 36 from last year. We did not offer private lessons this year due to the short season.*

*I'd like to thank the Parks Board, City Council, and Mayor's Office for their continued support the past seven years. I especially would like to thank Danny. He has always been supportive and a true example of leadership. I have learned so much from him over the years. I will miss working with him. I know when next year rolls around, I will miss the anticipation of preparing for the summer season, but it is time for me to move on to other things. Again, I appreciate all you have done these past seven seasons. I wish you the best in the future.*

Amphitheater Committee – End of Year – President Mike Pavey stated he was present to give the 2009 End of Year Wrap Up Report.

He stated there were 7 events at the park this year beginning with Community Day with roughly 400 people attending.

We had six free concerts with approximately 6,000 people attending. We ranged anywhere from 600 to 1,500 people per concert.

As a whole the concerts were well attended.

We had 4 rain events this year and the last concert was cold.

Corn asked if there were any instances. Pavey said there was an instance with an ElCamino parking in the handicap area and people going to the vehicle and drinking. They were asked to leave and did.

There was also a husband and wife and father-in-law not seeing eye to eye and they were also asked to leave and did.

Monty McMahan with the Excise had an off duty officer at the first concert to watch our performance and we got an excellent rating. There was only one stipulation that needed to be corrected and that was we needed flashlights to check ID's.

Pavey reported the group went to Security Training.

This year was the 1<sup>st</sup> year for us to write a check to the City to pay for performances.

Mathews stated he went to every concert and all were wonderful and thought the whole season was great.

Mathews thanked all committee members personally.

Pavey said we are starting to get consistency. Our acts have been good.

Our biggest performer this year he feels was Country Star Casey Jamerson.

Pavey reported that Artist Gordon Bonham stated we have the nicest venue they've played in.

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The Beatles Tribute Band told us we have a good venue and praised the hospitality of our group. Corn questioned class reunions. Will the beer garden close when the concert is over? He would like to see the alcohol stop when the concert is over.

Corn stated he feels the committee did a very responsible job this summer.

Corn shared with Pavey that the Parks Board would like to get better control of the jobs at the Amphitheater. He asked how the whole Amphitheater got started. Pavey said the Council agreed to do Amphitheater - how the whole process got started.

Corn asked if once the restrooms are done would the Amphitheater group come to the Parks Board with any further projects.

Pavey said we don't have a problem with that.

Pavey said that next year we need some work done on our backdrop. It may need to be replaced.

Corn said that in the rest of the Parks, Mathews asks the Parks Board if things can be done and feels that the Amphitheater needs to get permission to do things as well.

Crain moved to make a favorable recommendation to the Council to do alcohol at the Amphitheater unless there's a problem and that if any issues arise at that time will be revisited.

Yazel questioned the 501C3 and asked if it will establish a leasing entity. Pavey said it could. In the past the Amphitheater Committee has used the Arts Council and Heart of Rushville for donations to help contributors.

Pavey said that a 501C3 is a grant tool and helps with people wanting to make a donation.

Yazel asked if there was ever a situation with alcohol will the barkeeper get sued.

Yazel said he is more comfortable with the Amphitheater leasing from the City or Parks Board, making the Parks Board and City responsible.

City Attorney Ron Wilson said that suing and doing is 2 different situations.

Wilson said you have to prove negligence.

Yazel then asked, if in the future, the Amphitheater foresees a concession stand.

Pavey said yes, it would be nice.

Yazel said that fundraising could be beneficial.

Pavey said that tomorrow we will start scheduling acts for next year.

We have had two groups for next year already come forward for help and that is the Molly Moles who is wanting to do a concert to raise money for the Moscow Bridge Restoration and there will be a Christian Concert when the 400 WorkCamp kids come to town next June.

Crain moved to go on with concerts, as is, and for alcohol to stop being served at 10:30 p.m.

Shuppert seconded. Motion carried.

**New Business:** Molly Moles – Request to use Amphitheater for a Fundraiser for the Moscow Covered Bridge Restoration on June 3, 2010 -

Molly gave the following presentation: *Good evening ladies and gentlemen, my name is Molly Moles. I am looking to use the Riverside Park Amphitheater for a benefit concert I am assembling to raise funds to rebuild the Moscow Covered Bridge and the community of Moscow. I am doing this as a project for my Gold Award which is the highest award obtainable in the Girl Scout Program. I am in contact with local and well-known country artists such as: Blue River Band, Bigg Country, Casey Jamerson, The Harters, Jimmy Wayne, Love and Theft, and the Lost Trailers. As of Saturday, I have been in direct contact with the Carter Twins and they have given me verbal guarantee for that date. I am to email their father and let them know if this is an acceptable concert date as soon as possible. I am currently in contact with Jim Rigsbee of the Moscow Covered Bridge Committee. The date I am looking to put on this benefit is Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010. It would be starting at 6pm. The latest the concert would run would be 10pm. It just depends on the artists I can have come. The seating layout that I had in mind for this concert would be a reserved section in front for people that would pay admission and then the rest would be for people who wanted to come and give a donation. I would like to request that alcohol not be sold at this concert.*

Moles then asked: *Who would she have to get in contact to make sure the correct equipment is made available to the artists?* Sharpe stated she will give her Vicky Richmond's, our Artist Coordinator's number.

*Is there a booth located on the premises that would be able to be used by the artists for possible meet and greets and where people could purchase their merchandise?* Sharpe said yes we have a large tent where that can happen.

*As far as security goes who usually takes care of that?* Sharpe reported that she will have to talk to Gary Cameron about that.

*Are there people that can be on hand for equipment set up for the artists?* Sharpe stated she really needs to come to an Amphitheater meeting which is tomorrow night, to get permission from this group for help.

*Do you have a system set up for the ordering and pick up of tickets as well as will call, or would I have to organize that?* Sharpe stated she would have to organize that herself.

*Will my event be covered by your liability insurance for the facility?* Sharpe stated she will have to call our liability insurance carried but suggested that they too would have to provide liability insurance.

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*What are the dimensions of the amphitheater floor?* Pavey answered 80 x 60

*In closing, I would like to thank the committee for their time and for listening to my proposal. Most girls that do earn their gold Award usually plant flowers or help renovate a park, but I think that this project would be an inspirational move to show younger girls in Girl Scouts not just in Central Indiana, but the United States, that you can really reach for the stars. To not let other people crush your dreams. It's their dreams and they're the only one that can make them come true. Restoring a historical landmark would, in my opinion, have a greater and longer lasting impact on any community. I love the rich history of my country and state and would like to take this chance to make a profound difference. Does the committee have any questions or concern?* No further questions from the board.

Shuppert moved to allow Moles to use the Amphitheater for a fundraiser for the Moscow Covered Bridge Restoration Benefit Concert. Yazel seconded. Motion carried.

Request to use Booker T. Washington Center for a weekend family reunion - Sharpe shared with the board that she has had a request to use the Booker T. building from Friday to Sunday evening just to use for restrooms, kitchen and air conditioning if hot out. The family will be pitching tents across street in grassy area and using the Booker T. for restrooms.

Shuppert moved to charge \$150.00 for the three days and \$100.00 deposit for a total of \$250.00. Crain seconded. Motion carried.

Allen Leising – Youth Baseball – Drain Issue – Allen stated he was present representing the Rush County Youth Baseball and also introduced Todd Tressler, President of the league.

He stated they have an ongoing drainage issue.

Water drains down into their field and they also have an erosion problem.

Casey Owens has examined their field, which is too flat and needs to be raised. Owens suggested raising the field one inch and putting ½ inch of ag lime and baseball dirt to get a cone effect.

Bob Cheek of Rush County Stone will donate 75 tons of dirt for free advertisement.

Tressler said they also share the field with the Girls Softball and they have missed 30% of their games due to water standing. They have a nice field but not able to play when it rains.

If raising the field does not work then the next step would be to put in an 8 inch tile behind the back stop, around the fence. This would be Phase #2.

Tressler said to help in the erosion if they could have a backhoe come in and pile the dirt that people could use that for seating as well. They could terrace that off with railroad ties and gravel.

All they need is a backhoe and skid loader to spread the materials.

Tressler asked permission to raise the field first in Phase #1 and if that fails to try Phase #2 and have permission to use the City's equipment.

Shuppert moved to give permission to start with Phase #1 in raising the field and if that fails to continue on with Phase #2. Pennington seconded. Motion carried.

Leising thanked the Parks Board for all their help over the last three years.

Tressler stated he will possibly start on this next week.

He said they will raise the field and if they don't have to put a tile in they wont.

Mathews will check on them using the City's equipment.

### **Reports:**

Mathews reported they have been very busy.

Boy Scout District 9 will be using the Amphitheater September 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> for a Boy Scout Jamboree. We are trying to get the restrooms done at Amphitheater by then. Mathews reported this will be a nice thing for Rushville as it will bring 400-500 kids to town and they will all be camping out at the Amphitheater. They will have different activities throughout the weekend. Saturday will be open to the public with a hog roast. This weekend will give everyone an opportunity to see what the Boy Scouts is all about.

Also that day there is a car show coming to town.

They will have a banquet at the Comfort Inn. They sign in on Friday night. Car show on Saturday from 9-noon in the park. They will tour Rush County.

This will be bringing a lot of people to town. They will be eating at the Amish Buffett.

September 19<sup>th</sup> will be the Horseshoe Tournament.

September 20<sup>th</sup> the Plum Creek Church will hold church services at the Gazebo.

St. Mary's Fall Festival will be this next weekend.

Mathews reported they have been discussing the Pool Manager and by the next meeting he will have names and interviews.



Reported that Halloween is fast approaching and that he and Sharpe will begin sending letters out for donations.

Reported that all departments have gone through extensive budget cuts.

Items Not Known In Advance:

Lisa Boaz with the Rush County Players was present to request the use of the Amphitheater in October for a Haunted Trail.  
Lisa stated: *Rush County Players (RCP), a not-for-profit group, is asking the Rushville Parks Board for permission to use the Amphitheater facility in its entirety on Friday, October 23, 2009 and Saturday, October 24, 2009 for an CRP Fundraising activity: The RCP Haunted Trail.*  
*They will need access to the Amphitheater no later than mid-morning on Friday, October 23 – midnight on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.*  
*Parking area cleared and barricades set up, similar to concert events.*  
*Access to the restrooms, if they are complete and functional.*  
*Walking trail cleared prior to event, if possible.*  
*Canopy pulled on part of the facility, lights and electricity in the Amphitheater for activities, refreshments and waiting area.*  
*RCP will provide all other set up and clean up.*  
*This would be an event open to the public. We intend to sell hot chocolate or warm cider and perhaps have snacks.*  
*Our goal is to have the Haunted Trail and other supervised crafts and activities available to the patrons at a minimal cost per activity.*  
*They will have a horse pulled wagon.*  
*Their goal is to provide an affordable experience right here at home that is famiy friendly and fun.*  
*To raise much needed funds for RCP.*  
*Community involvement.*  
*To fill the void of “nothing to do” for youth of the community.*  
*Good PR opportunity to raise awareness for RCP and the Amphitheater venue.*  
*The Rush County Players Board consists of: President Matt Amos, Community Activity Lead Amanda Locchetta, and Fundraiser Lead Lisa Boaz.*  
*Boaz said this is something they would like to continue year after year.*  
*Sharpe said she will check on Liability Insurance and that the board would need liability insurance on their part.*  
*Boaz said if rain they will just hold everything under the Amphitheater.*  
*Pennington moved to allow the RCP to use the Amphitheater for their Haunted Trail on October23rd and 24, 2009. Crain seconded. Motion carried.*

Boaz then asked Sharpe to help promote this event.

The next meeting will be October 13, 2009.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
DENNY CORN, PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
TIM SHUPPERT, MVICE PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
TIM YAZEL, MEMBER

\_\_\_\_\_  
JAN VOILES, MEMBER

\_\_\_\_\_  
ANNA KAREN PENNINGTON, MEMBER

\_\_\_\_\_  
LIZ CRAIN, MEMBER

ATTEST:

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CARLA SHARPE, SECRETARY